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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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1952 JUL 9 PM 3 03

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
S/P

July 8, 1952

Middle East

TO: G - Mr. Matthews

Through: S/S

FROM: NEA - Mr. Byroade

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/28/78
PER VE NOTES OFFICE NEA
720115

SUBJECT: Request for Defense Concurrence on Revised MEDO Paper.

Discussion:

The attached letter to the Secretary of Defense transmits a copy of the UK paper of June 27 on the Middle East Defense Organization as revised during the course of the London discussions, together with a copy of a British paper of July 7, proposing certain changes in the June 27 draft. We request Defense concurrence in a proposal to tell the British that while we cannot accept their proposed changes, we approve the draft of June 27 as the basis of an initial diplomatic exchange among the sponsoring powers.

At your meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff July 2, they indicated a substantial measure of agreement with the draft of June 27 but showed your party two memoranda they had received from the Joint Strategic Survey Committee and the Army Chief of Staff which proposed certain changes in this draft. These proposals, it is understood, have not yet been considered formally by the JCS. The Department has prepared memoranda commenting on the proposed changes which will be transmitted informally to the Joint Chiefs and which, it is hoped, will persuade them that the draft of June 27 is acceptable as a basis for discussion by the sponsoring powers.

Recommendation:

That you sign the attached letter to the Secretary of Defense.

Concurrences:

NE, S/P and EUR.

NEA:ABDaspit:cms

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WOLF JR DATE 6/1/82
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Mailed 7/9/52

UNCLASSIFIED SECURITY INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1952 JUL 9 PM 3 05

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Mailed 7/10/52
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
S/P

Middle East

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I enclose for consideration by the Department of Defense a copy of SECTO 24, London, June 27, 1952 which contains a paper on the Middle East Defense Organization agreed to ad referendum by the United States and United Kingdom following discussions between members of the group accompanying the Secretary of State and the British in London. This paper is a revision of the earlier United Kingdom draft memorandum on the same subject, which was modified to take account of a number of changes suggested by the United States in the course of the discussions. Although Mr. Foster's letter of June 28, 1952 forwarding the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the United Kingdom memorandum had not been received at the time these discussions occurred, it will be noted that the present revision of that paper meets several of the points raised by the Joint Chiefs.

There is also attached a copy of a memorandum handed to this Department July 7 by officers of the British Embassy in which the United Kingdom proposes certain changes in the draft of June 27. Also attached is a draft reply to the British proposals, in which we indicate that the suggested changes are not acceptable and ask that the draft of June 27 be circulated.

In the opinion of the Department of State, the draft of June 27 provides a suitable basis for the proposed initial exchange of views among the sponsoring powers. In the course of such exchange of views, the United States Government can make such further suggestions with respect to the Middle East defense arrangements as may seem desirable. The paper as now drafted does not, in any case, provide a definitive blue-print of the proposed Organization, and there will be need for further deliberation before the Military Representatives Committee is convened or a planning group established. Moreover, the United States has already indicated to the United Kingdom that after the Arab States have been approached the situation should be reassessed before further steps are taken. There will thus be further opportunity for the United States to propose changes in the Organization as presently outlined, particularly where these changes are essentially of a supplementary nature.

The Honorable
Robert A. Lovett,
Secretary of Defense.

Subject

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